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## Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

### JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services<sup>1-4</sup>

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. They both failed. **“Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?”**

**SECURING OUR SAFETY (SOS)**<sup>5-6</sup> SOS is a non-profit that formed in 2012. <http://securingoursafety.org/>



**SOS's Frequently Asked Questions**<sup>7</sup> For the full list of SOS's 43 JO CO JS&PSS issue questions and answers, please see <http://securingoursafety.org/qa/>.

SOS's 11 most important questions of the total 43 FAQ follow.<sup>8</sup>

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1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.
  2. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission*. Hugo, OR.
  3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.
  4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.
  5. Securing Our Safety. Downloaded July 29, 2013. *Home Page of SOS*, <http://securingoursafety.org/>. Grants Pass, OR.
  6. SOS. Downloaded July 29, 2013. *SOS Teams*. <http://securingoursafety.org/the-can-do-list/>. Grants Pass, OR.

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## Community Response After Sheriff Had To Cut Services

**FAQ 3. How are JO CO's existing property taxes spent?** ANSWER: While the average JO CO property tax rate across OR is significantly higher than \$2 per \$1,000 of a property's assessed value, JO CO's permanent rate to support operations is a mere 58 cents. Now that the JO CO's budget is adopted for the new fiscal year that began July 1st, 2012, a link to a chart of the breakdown of how the 58 cents is spent [is provided in the original]. Many folks have been concerned that public safety departments were the departments that were most affected after the recent failure of the property tax levy vote. As you can see, after funding required services almost all tax dollars go to public safety so there is little else to cut when the tax dollars are not available (Source: JO CO).

**FAQ 4. How much does it cost to lodge an inmate per day at the JO CO Jail?** ANSWER: **\$119.14 per day**. To determine the actual cost of a bed, we use last year's total expense (minus generated revenue), which came to \$6,088,040. **Based upon 140 beds divided by 365 days we come up with a total of \$119.14 per bed/per day**. Costs can vary as we get discounts on certain expenses based upon the number of beds we use (i.e., costs per meal are reduced as we increase the numbers of inmates). Rental beds can fluctuate depending upon the additional service terms of the agreement, such as, medical, mental, transport, extra security, etc. Lane County for example charges \$117.57 per day/per bed plus a charge of \$38.00 per hour transportation/guard fee for inmates taken to hospital/doctor (Source: JO CO Sheriff Gil Gilbertson).

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## Securing Our Safety (SOS): Frequently Asked Questions

**FAQ 5. How much does it cost for a new Deputy District Attorney (DA) (Salary/Benefits) at the JO CO DA's Office for one year?** ANSWER: A beginning Felony Level Prosecuting Attorney in the Josephine County District Attorney's Office costs approximately \$106,000 (salary/benefits). Source: JO CO DA's Office.

**FAQ 6. How much in discretionary funding does the CO have available for Criminal Justice Services?** ANSWER: Budget graphs showing discretionary dollars are below: [provided in the original].

**FAQ 7. How many police officers does the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (GPDPS) have?** ANSWER: The adopted budget for Fiscal 2013 for the City of Grants Pass Public Safety (field and support divisions) shows 2 Deputy Chiefs, 1 Lieutenant, 5 Sergeants, 5 Corporals, and 36 Police Officers. GPDPS operates Police and Fire services 24 / 7. Those positions provide police patrol, detectives and detectives assigned to an interagency narcotics task force, as well as an interagency cyber crime task force combating internet crimes against children (Source: City of Grants Pass adopted budget book/City Website/Public Safety Director Joe Henner).

**Additional Educations Brochures** identify SOS's other 11 most frequently FAQ.<sup>8</sup>

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7. SOS. Downloaded September 5, 2013. *Frequently Asked Questions*. <http://securingoursafety.org/question-box-faq/>. Grants Pass, OR.
  8. Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee. 09/05/13. *SOS: 11 Most Frequently Asked Questions*. Brochure III.K.3.2.7.1 (1 of 3). Hugo, OR.

## Exploratory Committee's Mission

**Mission** An independent Justice System and Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee (*Exploratory Committee*) to investigate the JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) issue was formed under the leadership of the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society (HNA&HS).

Big picture ideas for the exploratory effort include the following.

1. Identifying the JS&PSS issue.
2. Identifying the JS&PSS sub-issues for research and analysis.
3. Identifying a range in level of services
4. Identifying a range of cost for services.
5. Identifying revenues for services.

The ultimate goal is an adequate justice system and public safety services. Is it possible to have a higher level of service for a lower cost? The purpose of the *Exploratory Committee* is to gather information adequate enough to understand the JS&PSS issues. This includes educational outreach efforts.

The *Exploratory Committee's* purpose is limited to investigating and researching the JS&PSS issues. It will not make evaluations of right or wrong, nor make recommendations on how to vote.

The contents of this brochure are expressions of the opinions and beliefs of those that contribute based on their thoughts and experiences. Hopefully, their efforts will assist the public toward informed decision-making.

- Donations Are Not Tax Deductible -

Edited by Mike Walker, Member, Exploratory Committee

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## Justice System Exploratory Committee

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

## Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

# SOS's 11 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Brochure III.K.3.2.8.2 (2 of 5)

Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



**FAQ 3. How are the CO's existing property taxes spent?**

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**FAQ 7. How many police officers does the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (GPDPS) have?**

**Very Draft September 5, 2013**

*Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee*